IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~An image correction~~ method comprising:

obtaining a first correction digital signal by scanning a first correction document during black correction, ~~and~~ extracting only a plurality of last bits of the first correction digital signal, and storing the extracted last bits of the first correction digital signal in a memory; and

obtaining a second correction digital signal by scanning a second correction document during white correction, ~~and~~ extracting only a plurality of first bits of the second correction digital signal, ~~and~~ setting the most significant bit of the second correction digital signal to a value of one [[1.]], and storing the extracted first bits of the second correction digital signal in the same or a different memory;

wherein the extraction and storage of the last bits of the first correction digital signal and the first bits of the second correction digital signal reduces a memory requirement for scanning the correction documents.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 33 [[1]], wherein the extracted last bits of the first correction digital signal are stored in a memory.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the memory comprises a random access memory.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 33 [[1]], wherein the extracted first bits of the second correction digital signal are stored in a memory.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the memory comprises a random access memory.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 33 [[1]], wherein the first correction document comprises a black correction document.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 33 [[1]], wherein the second correction document comprises a white correction document.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 33 [[1]], further comprising ~~wherein the step of black correction comprises~~:

scanning the first correction document to obtain ~~the~~ a first correction optical signal;

using an image extracting device to obtain a first correction analog signal; and

~~using an analog/digital converter to convert~~ converting the first correction analog signal into a first correction digital signal.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the image extraction device comprises a charge-coupled device.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising ~~wherein the step of white correction comprises~~:

scanning the second correction document to obtain ~~the~~ a second correction optical signal;

using the [[an]] image extracting device to obtain a second correction analog signal; and

~~using an analog/digital converter to convert~~ converting the second correction analog signal into a second correction digital signal.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the image extraction device comprises a charge-coupled device.

12. (Currently amended) An ~~image correction~~ apparatus comprising:

means for obtaining a first correction digital signal, said means for obtaining a first correction digital signal ~~being~~ configured to scan a first correction document during black correction, ~~and being configured~~ to extract only a plurality of last bits of the first correction digital signal; and

means for obtaining a second correction digital signal by scanning a second correction document during white correction, said means for obtaining a second correction digital signal ~~being~~ configured to extract only a plurality of first bits of the second correction digital signal; ~~and~~

~~means for setting the most significant bit of the second correction digital signal to a value of 1~~.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

means for setting the most significant bit of the second correction digital signal to a value of one;

and means for storing the extracted bits after the most significant bit is set ~~said means for obtaining a first correction digital signal being configured to store the extracted last bits of the first correction digital signal in a memory~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the extracted bits are stored in ~~memory comprises~~ a random access memory.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, ~~said means for obtaining a second correction digital signal being configured to store~~ further comprising means for storing the extracted first bits of the second correction digital signal in a memory.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the memory comprises a random access memory.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the first correction document comprises a black correction document.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the second correction document comprises a white correction document.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising ~~wherein said means for obtaining a first correction digital signal comprises~~:

means for scanning the first correction document to obtain ~~the~~ a first correction optical signal;

means for obtaining ~~an image extracting device to obtain~~ a first correction analog signal; and

means for converting ~~an analog/digital converter to convert~~ the first correction analog signal into a first correction digital signal.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the image extraction device comprises a charge-coupled device.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 12 [[19]], further comprising ~~wherein said means for obtaining a second correction digital signal comprises~~:

means for scanning the seeond eorrection document to obtain ~~the~~ a second correction optical signal;

means for obtaining ~~an image extracting device to obtain~~ a second correction analog signal; and

means for converting ~~an analog/digital converter to convert~~ the second correction analog signal into a second correction digital signal ~~signature~~.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the image extraction device comprises a charge-coupled device.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~An article, comprising: a~~ A storage medium having stored thereon instructions, that, when executed, are further operable to ~~if executed, result in~~:

obtain ~~obtaining~~ a first correction digital signal by scanning a first correction document during black correction, and extract ~~extracting~~ only a plurality of last bits of the first correction digital signal; and

obtain ~~obtaining~~ a second correction digital signal by scanning a second correction document during white correction, ~~and~~ extract ~~extracting~~ only a plurality of first bits of the second correction digital signal, and set ~~setting~~ the most significant bit of the second correction digital signal to a value of one [[1]].

24. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~article~~ of claim 23 wherein said storage medium has further instructions stored thereon, that, when executed, are further operable to ~~if executed, result in~~:

store ~~storing~~ the extracted last bits of the first correction digital signal in random access memory.

25. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~article~~ of claim 23 wherein said storage medium has further instructions stored thereon, that, when executed, are further operable to ~~if executed, result in~~:

store ~~storing~~ the extracted bits of the second correction digital signal in [[a]] random access memory.

26. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~article~~ of claim 23 wherein said storage medium has further instructions stored thereon, that, when executed, are further operable to ~~wherein the black correction comprises~~:

scan ~~scanning~~ the first correction document to obtain ~~the~~ a first correction optical signal;

use ~~using~~ an image extracting device to obtain a first correction analog signal; and

use ~~using~~ an analog/digital converter to convert the first correction analog signal into a first correction digital signal.

27. (Currently Amended) The storage medium ~~article~~ of claim 26 wherein said storage medium has further instructions stored thereon, that, when executed, are further operable to ~~wherein the white correction comprises~~:

scan ~~scanning~~ the second correction document to obtain ~~the~~ a second correction optical signal;

use the ~~using an~~ image extracting device to obtain a second correction analog signal; and

use the ~~using an~~ analog/digital converter to convert the second correction analog signal into a second correction digital signal.

28. (Currently Amended) An image made by a method comprising:

obtaining a first correction digital signal by scanning a first correction document during black correction, and extracting only a plurality of the last bits of the first correction digital signal; and

obtaining a second correction digital signal by scanning a second correction document during white correction, ~~and~~ extracting only a plurality of first bits of the second correction digital signal, and setting the most significant bit of the second correction digital signal to a value of one [[1]].

29. (Currently amended) The image of claim 28 made by a method further comprising:

storing the extracted last bits of the first correction digital signal in [[a]] random access memory.

30. (Currently amended) The image of claim 28 made by a method further comprising:

storing the extracted last bits of the second correction digital signal in [[a]] random access memory.

31. (Currently Amended) The image of claim 28 wherein the black correction comprises:

scanning the first correction document to obtain ~~the~~ a first correction optical signal;

using an image extracting device to obtain a first correction analog signal; and

using an analog/digital converter to convert the first correction analog signal into a first correction digital signal.

32. (Currently Amended) The image of claim 31 wherein the white correction comprises:

scanning the second correction document to obtain ~~the~~ a second correction optical signal;

using the [[an]] image extracting device to obtain a second correction analog signal; and

using the [[an]] analog/digital converter to convert the second correction analog signal into a second correction digital signal.

33. (New) A method comprising:

obtaining a first correction digital signal by scanning a first correction document during black correction, extracting only a plurality of last bits of the first correction digital signal; and

obtaining a second correction digital signal by scanning a second correction document during white correction, extracting only a plurality of first bits of the second correction digital signal, setting the most significant bit of the second correction digital signal to a value of one.